fusca. *Testa* fusco-badia, oblonga, convexa, tricarinata, à carinis ad marginem medio rotundata, posticè subplanè declivis: margine ferè integro. *Scuta dorsalia* subsulcata, et radiatìm striata, areolis ad angulos posticos positis, punctatis: *vertebralia* omnia subimbricata, elongata, canaliculata, medio acutè carinata; primum triangulare, posticè truncatum; secundum et tertium elongato-hexagona; quartum hexagonum, sinuosè marginatum, alatum; quintum quadrilaterum, anticè angustatum, posticè latum, margine postico rotundato: *costalia* convexa, suprà acutè carinata, areolis posticis; primum trigono-trapezoideum, margine inferiore rotundato; secundum et tertium rectangula, convexa; quartum pentagonum, irregulare, subgibbosum: *marginalia* viginti tria, quadrilatera; anteriora subhorizontalia; lateralia verticalia; posteriora latiora, declivia. *Scutum nuchale* breve, quadratum. *Sternum* fulvo-badium vel flavicans, oblongum, anticè rotundatum, marginem interiorem testæ ferè adæquans, posticè subacutum, angustatum, subemarginatum, à testæ margine paululò distans; lobi anterior et posterior membranâ articulati, mobiles; medius solidus, fixus, scutis abdominalibus tectus. *Scuta sterni* undecim, subdecussato-striata; *gulare* impar, cordatum, margine sinuato; *humeralia* quadrilatera, trapezoidea; *pectoralia* quadrilatera, intùs attenuata; *abdominalia* magna, subquadrata, rectangula; *femoralia* elongata, posticè acuminata; *analia* trigona, anticè acuminata; *axillaria* et *inguinalia* longa, angusta, sternum à dorso omninò separantia.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	6	0
Latitudo ejusdem	4	7
Longitudo sterni	5	2
Altitudo	2	2

This species, not only the most elegant of the genus, but one of the most so of the whole order, was first made known by Linnæus, under the specific name which it still retains. The specific character which he has assigned to it—"fronte callo trilobo"—is one which I have reason to believe was a purely accidental circumstance in the specimen described by him; as in the living one which I had in my possession, and from which the present figures are taken, there was no appearance of any such appendage, nor is it either represented

or described by Spix, in his work on the Tortoises of Brazil, in which the present species is twice figured and described. The error, however, like many others sanctioned by such authority, has been perpetuated by subsequent writers, as Lacépède, Latreille, Daudin, and Merrem. The name *scorpioides* was given to it from a character which is certainly not constant, namely, the existence of a horny claw terminating the tail. In Spix's figure of *Kinosternon longicaudatum*, which is certainly the present species, such a claw exists, and the tail is of considerable length; in the specimen from which our drawing was made, as well as in *K. brevicaudatum* of Spix, the tail is short, conical, and has no terminal nail or spine. A similar variety occurs in *Testudo indica*, *T. græca*, *T. marginata*, and other species, some individuals of which have longer tails with the terminal claw, and others very short ones without such an appendage. It has been observed by Lacépède that adult animals only have it. Whether it be a distinction appertaining to sex is as yet undetermined; but it is most probable that it belongs to the female, from the circumstance of its existing only at the extremity of a tail much longer than those in the same species which have no such appendage, and the consequent removal of the opening of the cloaca to some extent from the margin of the shell. The object of this length of tail in the female, would be to allow of a considerable extension of the cloaca, and thus to afford a greater facility for the passage of the egg.

The true structure of this tortoise was first understood by Daudin, who places it in his subdivision of "Tortues à boîte." Lacépède had previously considered it as belonging to the fresh-water group, and appears surprised at one of that division having a spine at the tail. Merrem however, having overlooked this arrangement of Daudin, probably in consequence of that author having altered the name to *tricarinata*, considers it as a land tortoise, and places it in his subgenus *Chersine*. *Testudo tricarinata* of Schœpff is undoubtedly the young of this species. I have a specimen a little larger than his figure; it is of a bright chestnut colour, and has the three dorsal carinæ very distinctly marked.

In the General Zoology, Shaw has figured and described a specimen of this species, as a variety of *T. pensylvanica*, in which, as in one in my possession,